

Key Points on WIOA for Colorado

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act was signed in July 2014. It requires a new level of program alignment, coordination of services, and integrated strategic planning for the core programs. The core programs are: Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker; Adult Education and Literacy; Wagner-Peyser; and Vocational Rehabilitation.

Regions and Areas: Federally recognized “workforce investment regions” under WIA will have to be recertified by the Governor as “local workforce development areas”. WIOA requires the identification of planning regions—which may consist of one or more local areas—and shared planning and service coordination within those regions.

One-Stop System: WIOA updates the programs that are required partners in one-stop delivery systems. New required partners include TANF and Reintegration programs. The Governor may determine that any of the required partners are excluded from participation in the one-stop system.

One-stop delivery system partner programs must enter into an MOU with the one-stop system operator regarding services and the payment of infrastructure costs.

Funding: While WIOA calls for alignment between core programs, each core program receives federal funding through allocation formulas and appropriation limits outlined within each specific title of the law.

One-stop partner programs are not explicitly entitled to new or different federal funding streams authorized by WIOA based on their required inclusion in the one-stop system.

WIOA cannot and is not intended to supplant other funding mechanisms of required partners.

Performance Measures: All of the core programs must report on the same six performance accountability measures that are defined by USDOL.

State Plan: A 4-year state plan must be submitted to USDOL no later than March 3, 2016. Either a Unified Plan, which includes the core programs, or a Combined Plan, which includes the core programs plus one or more of the one-stop system partner programs, must be developed. The decision on which plan to pursue will be made by the WIOA Implementation Team.

Early Implementation: As of December 10, 2014, a decision has not been made on whether or not Colorado will be an early implementation state. That decision will be made by the WIOA Implementation Team, which includes representatives of the state agencies governing the core programs, after the draft regulations are released on January 18, 2015.